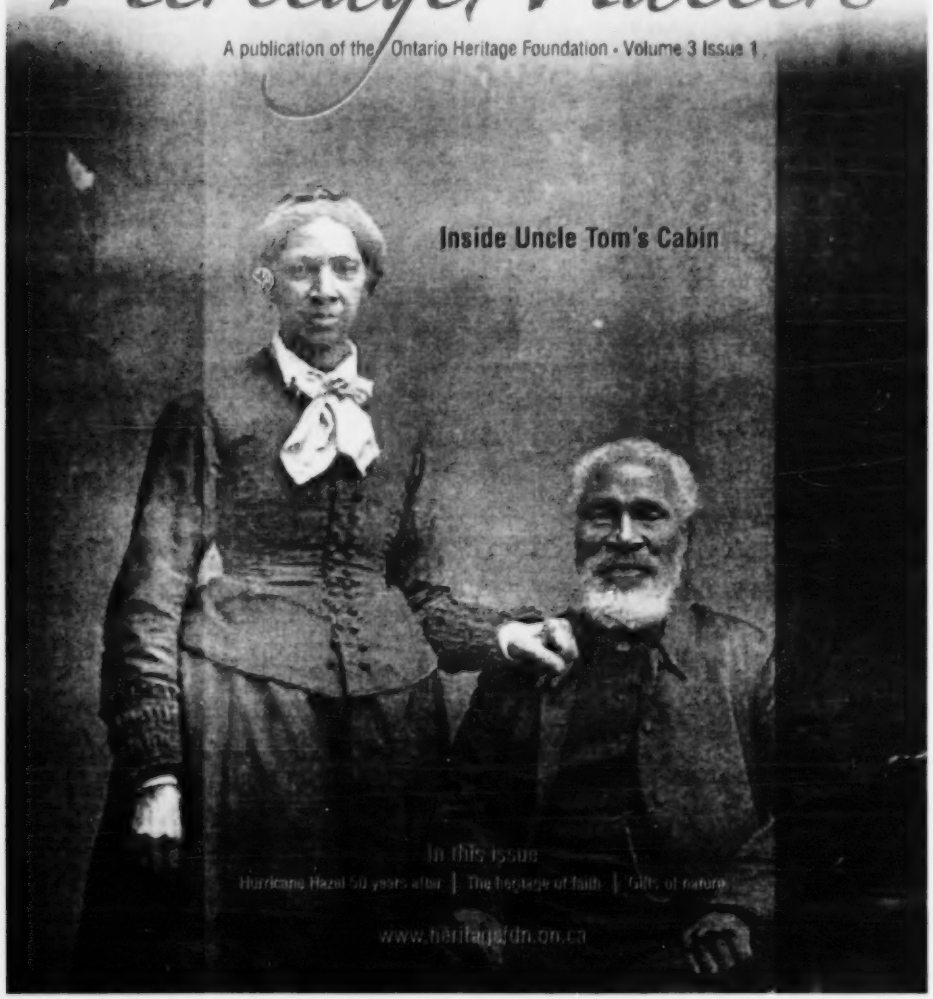
ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Heritage Matters

A publication of the Ontario Heritage Foundation • Volume 3 Issue 1



Inside Uncle Tom's Cabin

In this issue

Hurricane Hazel 50 years after | The heritage of faith | Gifts of nature

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The Pangnirtung Whaling Station is one of the featured sites during Adventure Canada's 2005 Arctic trips.

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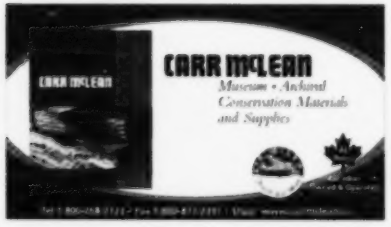
Some of the fascinating heritage sites participating on these tours include:

- Pannirtuluq (Pangnirtung): the Whaling Station features an interpretive display of cultural and industrial history
- Beechey Island: the graves of explorer Sir John Franklin's men, buried in 1845
- Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet): the Nattinnak Centre, poised on a cliff overlooking the inlet, is home to an extraordinary collection of oral histories, vintage photographs and an impressive wildlife and cultural diorama

These sites – and others – open their doors in 2005 to highlight the extraordinary natural, cultural and artistic traditions of the Canadian Arctic.



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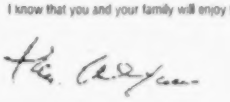
A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Since becoming Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 2004, I have developed an increased awareness of our province's unique past and our shared heritage. I now look at buildings differently. I notice more commemorative plaques as I tour the province. And I marvel at the indelible beauty of our landscapes. This is our heritage – a precious inheritance that must be preserved and protected.

This commitment, however, must be strengthened. Every day, we hear from concerned citizens – friends and neighbours – who want to know how we can help them preserve heritage in their own communities. Statistics show that 23 per cent of historic buildings across Canada were demolished between 1970 and 2000. This figure is staggering. We are certainly encouraged by the commitment of community groups across Ontario in lending their support to heritage preservation. But, at the critical decision-making level, not all the tools of preservation are being used. And although heritage awareness increases each year – Doors Open Ontario, as one example, showcases hundreds of heritage sites across the province – we must remain vigilant.

We need to find better ways to convey our message to more people and to sing the praises of those who work tirelessly to preserve their own communities. That is why we have decided to change this news forum, *Heritage Matters* debuted in 1994 as a newsletter that provided readers with information on the Foundation's events and programs. Certainly, this new magazine will continue to update you on the Foundation's activities, but it will also provide you with timely heritage-related stories, engage communities in more meaningful ways and reach a new audience.

I know that you and your family will enjoy this new magazine.



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Heritage Matters

Heritage Matters is published in English and French and has a combined circulation of 10,500.

Advertising rates:

Business card	$100
1/4 page	$225
1/2 page	$500
Full page	$900

Prices do not include GST

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Produced by the Ontario Heritage Foundation (an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Culture).

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Publications Agreement Number 1738040
ISSN 1708-2454
12/05

Ontario

Inside Uncle Tom's Cabin

By Wayne Kelly

At a bend in the Sydenham River near the town of Dresden stands Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. The museum – built on the site of the Black settlement that Rev. Josiah Henson founded in 1841 – preserves the settlement where Henson and his wife Nancy lived. Today, thousands of people make pilgrimages to Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site to discover more about our past.

FEATURE STORY

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site takes its name from Harriet Beecher Stowe's successful 1852 anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, featuring a character named Tom (loosely based on Josiah Henson). Henson's own story is told in his autobiography, first published in 1849.

Josiah Henson was born into slavery on June 15, 1789 near Port Tobacco in Charles County, Maryland. As a slave, Henson experienced horrifying conditions. He was separated from his parents, sold twice and maimed for life after being beaten. In 1829, Henson arranged to purchase his freedom with money he earned by preaching to Methodist congregations. Betrayed by his master, Henson was taken to New Orleans to be sold. Henson escaped slavery by fleeing northwards with his wife and four children using the Underground Railroad, eventually crossing the Niagara River into Upper Canada (now Ontario) on October 28, 1830.

Upper Canada had become a haven for Black refugees from the United States after 1793 when Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe passed an *"An Act to prevent the further introduction of Slaves, and to limit the Term of Contracts for Servitude within this Province."* Although the legislation didn't free slaves living in Canada, it prohibited the importation of slaves to the province. This meant that refugees from slavery were free as soon as they set foot in Ontario. By 1830, when Henson arrived, the Black community in Upper Canada consisted of Black Loyalists who had fought for the British during the American Revolution, African American refugees from the War of 1812, and others.

Henson started his life in Canada working as a farm labourer and a lay preacher in the Waterloo area. In 1834, he moved to Colchester with 12 friends and established a Black settlement on land rented from the government. There, in 1836, Henson met Hiram Wilson, a missionary from the American

Anti-Slavery Society who ministered to Black Canadians. Wilson introduced Henson to one of his friends, James Canning Fuller, a Quaker from New York. With financial assistance from Wilson and a silent partner (probably Fuller), Henson purchased 200 acres in Dawn Township to build a self-sufficient community for fugitives from slavery.

The Dawn Settlement, as it was called, centred on the British-American Institute – an all-ages manual school that trained teachers and provided a general education. The school opened in 1842 "to cultivate *the entire being*, and elicit the fairest and fullest possible development of the physical, intellectual and moral powers," and to provide Black Canadians with the skills they needed to prosper and to disprove the racist beliefs of proponents of slavery who argued that Blacks were incapable of independent living.

In February 2000, an agreement was reached with the St. Clair Parks Commission and the Government of Canada to transfer ownership and operation of Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site to the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The Dawn Settlement grew to include mills and a brickyard. Settlers cleared their land and grew crops – mainly wheat, corn and tobacco – and exported locally grown black walnut lumber to Britain and the United States. At its peak, about 500 people lived at the Dawn Settlement. Henson purchased 200 acres of land adjacent to the community, where his family lived (100 of which he sold back to the Settlement at a discounted price). He preached in the Dawn Settlement's community church and served on the executive committee of the Institute.

The Dawn Settlement developed administrative problems and in 1849 the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society took over its management. After the school closed in 1868, the Dawn Settlement began to fade. Most residents either returned to the United States where slavery had finally been abolished or moved to other communities in Ontario. Josiah and Nancy Henson, however, continued to live in Dawn for the rest of their lives.

Throughout his life, Henson was an important leader for Canada's growing Black community. He led a Black militia unit during the Rebellion of 1837, advocated in support of literacy and education for Blacks, toured parts of the United States and Britain to raise funds to support his activities and helped Black Canadians to join the Union Army to fight against slavery during the American Civil War. Today, plaques from the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada commemorate the remarkable contributions of this man.

Wayne Kelly is the Plaque Program Coordinator and historian for the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

HURRICANE HAZEL
50 YEARS LATER

A provincial plaque marking the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel was unveiled by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and The Humber Heritage Committee on October 16, 2004. The plaque, located in King's Mill Park in Etobicoke, is part of the Foundation's Provincial Plaque Program that commemorates significant people, places and events in Ontario's history. Since 1953, more than 1,100 of these distinctive blue and gold plaques have been unveiled.

There was little warning about Hurricane Hazel – one of the worst storms in Canada's history. At the time, few Canadians paid attention to tropical storms. But when Hurricane Hazel struck southern Ontario at rush hour on October 15, 1954, that complacency disappeared.

Buffeted by winds of up to 110 km/h, over 200 mm of rain fell within 24 hours, causing rivers to overflow and flood communities across southern Ontario. The storm killed 81 people and left thousands homeless. Property damage – with homes and bridges washed out – was estimated at over $180 million. But the legacy of this catastrophe was the development of a sophisticated province-wide weather warning system, measures to conserve watersheds of major rivers and a flood warning and control system.

"Hurricane Hazel devastated Toronto, and left our city reeling," said Toronto Mayor David Miller. In its wake, the storm had dumped 181.6 billion litres of rain on the city. Rivers swelled, flooding railway lines and highways. Many guests at the plaque unveiling in October 2004 recalled seeing refrigerators and bodies floating downriver as they viewed the devastation from bridges left unscathed.

"The extent of the flood waters and the people who perished touched the lives of almost everyone in the Toronto area," said Madeleine McDowell, Chair of the Humber Heritage Committee, "but most particularly in its largest watershed, the Humber, where the greatest loss was felt."

The damage from the storm in this area was catastrophic. Floodwaters swept away 14 homes on Raymore Drive on the west side of the river just south of Lawrence Avenue and killed 32 residents in one hour. In areas where floodplains had been drained and developed for housing, the damage to homes was extensive.

Many lessons, however, were learned from Hurricane Hazel. The Province of Ontario established a flood forecasting and warning system, managed by representatives from all three levels of government. Flood control facilities were studied, upgraded or constructed. Dams, three lakes and several reservoirs were also built to control water levels and monitor the flow of rivers and streams. As a result of Hurricane Hazel, homes on low-lying lands were cleared. Greenbelts were established in watershed areas as part of a broad system of Toronto and area parks. Conservation authorities throughout southern Ontario were either formed or given greater support to manage these parks in areas prone to flooding.

"Certainly the forces of nature continue to display their awesome powers," said The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, "but Hurricane Hazel forever changed the way we prepare ourselves for such events."

Photo: Madeleine McDowell

New Foundation Board members. From left: Jean Piché, Paule Doucet, The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Jean Kettles, Helen MacLeod and Sandy Smallwood. Dr. Doucet's appointment was featured in a previous issue of Heritage Matters. Not shown: Carol Beckmann.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FOUNDATION...

The Foundation's Chairman, The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, is pleased to announce the appointment of the following new members to the Board of Directors:

Carol Beckmann, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Ms. Beckmann is a lawyer who has spent many years in the public policy and communications field. She is Vice-President of the School of Restoration Arts at Willowbank, a nationally designated historic site. Ms. Beckmann is also on the Executive Committee of the Niagara Historical Society and Museum and a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy.

Jean Kettles, Bruce Mines
Ms. Kettles was a council member of the Town of Bruce Mines from 1984 to 1994, and Mayor from 1997 to 2003. She is a charter member of the Copper Town Committee. Ms. Kettles was named Citizen of the Year in 1996 by the Bruce Mines Chamber of Commerce.

Helen MacLeod, L'Orignal
Ms. MacLeod is a municipal councillor for the Township of Champlain. In 2001, she was a member of the committee that worked to preserve and protect St. Andrew's United Church in L'Orignal. The committee received one of the Foundation's Heritage Community Recognition Program certificates for their efforts.

Jean Piché, Hearst
M. Piché is a financial planning consultant with a strong interest in natural heritage and the environment.

Sandy Smallwood, Rockcliffe Park
In 1996, Sandy Smallwood received one of the Foundation's Heritage Community Recognition Program certificates for his work in restoring historic buildings in the Ottawa area. He is a director of Historic Ottawa Development Inc. and the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, and a member of the Rockcliffe Park LACAC.

OLMSTED GARDENS CELEBRATED . . .

As reported in our last issue of *Heritage Matters*, restoration of the magnificent Olmsted gardens at the Foundation's Fulford Place in Brockville is now complete. Fulford Place, a 20,000-square-foot Edwardian mansion on the shores of the St. Lawrence River, was built between 1899-1901 and features gardens designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Massachusetts. On September 17, 2004, the Foundation honoured the project's many donors by hosting a garden party to officially celebrate the completion of the restoration project.

Guests at the garden party were welcomed by Fredrik S. Eaton, Vice-Chairman of the Foundation; Foundation Board members Alex Arnett, Tamara L. Retsenko and Alan Sullivan; and Richard Moorhouse, Foundation Executive Director. Members of the Friends of Fulford Place, donors to the restoration project, Brockville Mayor Ben Te Kamp and representatives of the local heritage community were treated to a traditional afternoon tea on the verandas overlooking the gardens.

Donors included: The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, The Donner Canadian Foundation, The Dalgliish Family Foundation, The Carolyn Sifton Foundation, The Chawkers Foundation and Sheila M. Croft.

Special thanks were extended to the Friends of Fulford Place whose generosity and dedication to the site over the years have made it a vibrant and exciting part of Eastern Ontario's cultural community.

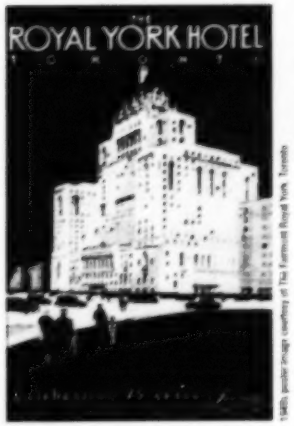
The restoration project took two planting seasons to complete. But before the actual restoration began, historic research into the Olmsteds and a review of the archival records of the Fulford gardens were conducted.

The restoration of a landscape is fundamentally different from that of a building. A completed garden is truly just the beginning, for it continues to grow and change. The full effect intended by the Olmsteds – or by any garden designer of any era – only becomes evident as time passes. Garden conservancy reminds us that heritage preservation can be a living and growing – even blooming – activity.

Fulford Place is owned and operated by the Foundation and remains a popular venue for tours and special events. For more information, contact Fulford Place at 613-498-3003 or visit www.heritagefdn.on.ca.

IT'S PLAQUE SEASON!

Each year, the Foundation unveils blue and gold provincial plaques around the province. These plaques make Ontario's history come alive by telling stories of the people, places and events that helped shape our province. In 2004, we commemorated a devastating hurricane that killed over 80 people and left a path of destruction in its wake, and a seasonal parade that continues to delight generations of children. The Provincial Plaque Program remains the Foundation's oldest and perhaps best-known activity. Here are some of the plaques unveiled recently.



1985 poster image courtesy of The Fairmont Royal York, Toronto

The Royal York Hotel
Unveiled: June 8, 2004
Location: At the Fairmont Royal York, 100 Front Street West, Toronto

Built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1928-1929, the Royal York Hotel was part of its coast-to-coast chain of grand hotels. The skyscraper hotel was the largest hotel in the British Commonwealth and dramatically altered the Toronto skyline.

Windermere plaque unveiling. From left: Dr. James Angus, Ontario Heritage Foundation Board member; The Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario; Susan Pryke, Mayor, Township of Muskoka Lakes; Susan Goltz, Windermere Heritage Committee; Barbara Dutton, Windermere Heritage Committee and Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Windermere
Unveiled: July 14, 2004
Location: At the former village of Windermere municipal building, 2496 Windermere Road, Windermere

Originally an agricultural settlement, by the 1870s people had begun visiting Windermere for restorative wilderness holidays. The Windermere House resort developed in the 1880s, serving as the focal point for Windermere's evolution into a well-loved vacation destination.

The Santa Claus Parade
Unveiled: November 19, 2004
Location: At the corner of Queen Street West and James Street, Toronto

In 1905, Timothy Eaton's department store began the tradition of the Santa Claus Parade. In 1982, a local volunteer group assumed responsibility for the parade. Over the years, the parade has grown in size and splendour. One of Canada's longest-running traditions, the parade remains focussed on bringing joy to children and continues to enchant and entertain people of all ages.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Toronto's Santa Claus Parade. From left: Santa Claus, the children of St. Michael Catholic School Choir and The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel commemorated. From left: The Honourable Jean Augustine, MP, Etobicoke-Lakeshore; Jennifer Mossop, Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur and MPP for Stoney Creek; The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman, Ontario Heritage Foundation; David Miller, Mayor, City of Toronto; Madeleine McDowell, Humber Heritage Committee; and William Stewart, Fire Chief, City of Toronto.

Reid Mill
Unveiled: August 24, 2004
Location: At 27 Reid Drive, Mississauga

This flour mill was built on the Credit River southeast of the village of Streetsville in the mid-1830s by John Beaty. The original mill, hidden inside the milling complex, and the mill dam, which survives, played an important role in Ontario's commercial and industrial history.

Reid Mill plaque unveiling. From left: Frank Reid, grandson of Reid Mill founder; Ken Silk, General Manager of Kraft Mississauga Mill; and Kieran S. Gorman, Board member for the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Hurricane Hazel
Unveiled: October 16, 2004
Location: In King's Mill Park on the Humber River, Toronto

Hurricane Hazel hit southern Ontario on October 15, 1954 flooding rivers in much of southern Ontario. The storm killed 81 people, left 1,868 families homeless, and caused extensive property damage. Hurricane Hazel's legacy was the development of a sophisticated weather warning system for the province, measures to conserve the watersheds of major rivers, and an evolving system of flood warning and control.

Waterloo County
Unveiled: October 12, 2004
Location: At the corner of Queen Street North and Weber Street, Kitchener

Waterloo County held its first council meeting on January 24, 1853. With the establishment of Waterloo County emerged a series of enduring institutions, including roads and bridges, a judiciary and jail, grammar (or high) schools, a House of Industry and Refuge, agricultural societies and local markets. On January 1, 1973, the Waterloo County area became the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

Fur Trading at Saugeen
Unveiled: August 21, 2004
Location: In Pioneer Park, along the south bank of the Saugeen River, Southampton

The Hudson's Bay Company established an outpost at Saguingue in 1826 to compete with independent fur traders. By 1832, the supply of premium furs was exhausted and the company closed its post although fur trading continued in the area for many years.

The history of fur trading at Saugeen honoured with provincial plaque. From left: Dr. David McNab, James McLay, President, Saguingue Métis Council; Paul Steckle, MP, Huron-Bruce; Tony Belcourt, President, Métis Nation of Ontario; Fredrik S. Eaton, Board member, Ontario Heritage Foundation; and Mark Kramer, Mayor, Town of Saugeen Shores.

For more information – including full text – about these and other plaques, visit the Foundation's website (www.heritagefdn.on.ca) and consult the Online Plaque Guide and the Featured Plaques of the Month.

Adventures in archaeology!

A summer day camp program at the Spadina Museum

Since 2001, the Foundation has partnered with the Spadina Museum in Toronto to provide a summer day camp experience for children. In 2004, the children – ranging in age from 10 to 13 years old – once more dug into Spadina's historic past. Each day, the children learned the tools and techniques used by professional archaeologists, uncovered artifacts and enjoyed workshops. Highlights of the 2004 program included finding additional structural evidence of a drain in the east end of the site and continuation of the cinder driveway that Spadina's Austin family had in the west end of the dig. No matter what they uncovered, the children were fascinated by their discoveries and what those discoveries might tell them about the families who came before them. A total of 1,675 artifacts were recovered during the 2004 program. Since the launch of the program, children in this program have recovered over 7,000 artifacts. Another program is scheduled for July 2005. Look for details in the City of Toronto's *Fun Guide* in the spring.

Doors Open Ontario

"A cultural phenomenon . . ."

The Foundation's Doors Open Ontario program continues to generate outstanding response from the public. In 2004, The Canadian Press branded the program a "cultural phenomenon" in an article that was published in Ontario newspapers.

Last year, over 180 communities – in 34 events – participated by opening hidden, secret and forgotten places and spaces throughout Ontario. When the final numbers were counted, close to 450,000 visits were made by residents and tourists to over 800 heritage sites.

Doors Open Ontario will be expanding in 2005 with 44 events – 14 of which will be first-time participants, including Bayfield, Belleville, Brussels, Cobourg, Collingwood, Comfort Country (Tweed-Stirling-Madoc area), Goderich, Greater Napanee, Muskoka-Bracebridge, Muskoka-Huntsville, Newmarket, Orillia, Port Perry-Scugog-Uxbridge and Seaforth.

Be sure to order *your Doors Open Ontario 2005 Guide* from 1-800-ONTARIO (available in April). Or visit *www.doorsopenontario.on.ca* for up-to-the-minute information about each community event.

Collingwood Federal Building

STARTING FROM THE GROUND

UP

Prior to repointing the leaky 150-year-old foundations at the Ontario Heritage Foundation's Workers' Cottage in Williamstown, archaeologists excavated along the foundation walls until they found undisturbed soil. The uncovered artifacts were used to determine the date of construction. A backhoe was used to break the excavation under the guidance of the archaeologist.

Most buildings begin with a solid foundation. Understanding how their foundation functions will determine how successful the project will be. Heritage structures are no different. Preserving and strengthening the foundation will lead to greater success in overall heritage conservation. Find out more about structural conservation techniques in *Well-Preserved*.

Well-Preserved can be purchased by calling the Ontario Heritage Foundation at 416-325-5000. Or visit *www.heritagefdn.on.ca* and click on About us/Merchandise.

Next issue . . . Working with superstructures: The framework for Ontario's heritage buildings

Foundations and building systems

The following excerpt appears in *Well-Preserved: The Ontario Heritage Foundation's Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation (Third Revised Edition)*, by Mark Fram (Boston Mills Press, 2003).

Every building is a system – each part is connected. Thanks to gravity, the foundation is at the bottom (literally) of almost every building problem. Most buildings move, shift and settle in the few years after construction as the ground gets used to the new weights placed on it. Even foundations on bedrock may move as compressive forces squeeze their materials against the rock. In general, old-building foundations are thus far more stable and secure than those of new buildings. Over time they have attained equilibrium.

Earth movements and ground water can unsettle this equilibrium. Several parts of Ontario, especially in the east, are potential earthquake zones, but there are no seismic retrofit requirements for buildings in the province, as there are, for instance, in California. Man-made earth movements are far more serious concerns, especially in the mining areas of northern Ontario and near gravel quarries and heavy industries. Adjacent construction and excavation may also unsettle once stable foundations. Vibration makes loose soil act like a liquid, and foundations have been known to settle unevenly under such conditions, long after they should have stabilized.

Variations in ground water are far more widespread than ground movements; all but the largest buildings are founded on soil whose load-carrying capacities change with moisture content. As urban and agricultural areas expand, and forests shrink, the water table tends to drop, soil dries out, and the ground compresses under the weight of the building. Installation of storm sewers in small towns has often led to sudden foundation settlement in century-old buildings.

With such external influences, it is almost impossible to take corrective action until the environment itself stabilizes. In many cases, settlement will be uniform and will not cause much harm; apart from small cracks and misalignment of doors and windows. The flexibility inherent in small frame structures allows them to remain sturdy, even though some of their finishes may suffer.

Changes in the use of a building can also destabilize both structure and foundation, especially when loads exceed the capacity of the original design. There is always a large "safety" factor in any structure, and old buildings may have far more generous margins than closely calculated new construction, but even these have limits. When left undisturbed by major renovations or changes of use, foundations should remain stable. But they may require reinforcement or underpinning if loading is to be changed dramatically.

GIFTS OF NATURE

DONATIONS PRESERVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

FIELDWORK

The Ricenberg acquisition

In October 2004, Ricenberg Developments Limited donated to the Ontario Heritage Foundation an important nine-hectare (22-acre) parcel of land located on the Niagara Escarpment in the Town of Grimsby.

This is a significant donation as it assists in protecting a corridor of relatively undisturbed natural area, located in a section of the most heavily urbanized stretch of the Escarpment. The property provides a portion of the permanent route for the Bruce Trail – Ontario's longest and oldest hiking trail. The Trail extends 725 km from Queenston in Niagara to Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

The property stretches from the toe of the Escarpment almost to the brow. Its dominant geophysical features are steep ridges and associated valleys with four seasonal streams emerging from the Escarpment and flowing down the valleys to a small plateau. The property is dominated by a sugar maple forest with American beech and bitternut hickory as subdominant species. Less abundant species include: black cherry, ironwood, shagbark hickory and black walnut. Several of these tree species are representative of the Deciduous Forest Region, known as the Carolinian zone, for its abundance of flora and fauna species with southern affinities. There is also suitable habitat available for wildlife.

Protection of the Escarpment's natural areas through the Niagara Peninsula is particularly important because of the intensive urban and agricultural presence there. Through this generous donation of land and an additional cash donation to assist with property management, Ricenberg has recognized both the importance of maintaining natural areas on the Escarpment, while also supporting a permanent route for the Bruce Trail. Together with adjoining lands already owned by the Foundation, the acquisition of the Ricenberg property will protect 26 hectares (63 acres) of land and provide access to .85 km of the Bruce Trail through the Town of Grimsby.

The recent Ricenberg acquisition has enabled the Ontario Heritage Foundation to add to its portfolio of lands held in trust for the people of Ontario, and to ensure a permanent route for the Bruce Trail. A longstanding partnership with the Bruce Trail Association (BTA) enables the Foundation to hold title to lands for the Bruce Trail. The BTA continues to focus its attention on the operation and management of the Trail and surrounding lands. The Foundation owns 19 Bruce Trail properties, totaling 1,641 hectares (4,055 acres).

Along the trail at the Ricenberg property, Ricenberg Developments Limited has been an active land and residential subdivision developer in the Grimsby area for over 20 years.

Mr. Boothby died before the agreement was completed, but his estate has proceeded as he wished. The property, now owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, will be managed by The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation – a locally based charitable not-for-profit corporation with a mandate to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment in the Lake of Bays area. This partnership will assist the Foundation to ensure that the Boothby site is maintained in its natural state in perpetuity to preserve and enhance its scenic character as part of Ontario's natural heritage landscape. Mr. Boothby's legacy lives on.

The Egbert Ross Boothby property

Imagine a plot of land on the Lake of Bays, seemingly untouched by human habitation. It has almost a mile of natural shoreline and is covered with trees – hemlock, cedar, beech and maple – many of which have stood for more than a century. Now picture the same plot of land covered with cottages or condos. Thanks to the late Egbert Ross Boothby, his estate, six local families and The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, that won't happen. Not ever.

Egbert Ross Boothby owned a property in the Lake of Bays. Approximately 19 hectares (47 acres) in size, it includes 1,433 km (4,700 feet) of shoreline frontage. This property is the largest stretch of undeveloped shoreline in The Lake of Bays – an area under severe development pressure.

Ross Boothby served on the board of The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation and was a strong advocate for the preservation of the history and natural beauty of the lake. He wanted to ensure that his property was protected and preserved. With this in mind, he entered into negotiations with the Ontario Heritage Foundation to ensure its preservation in perpetuity.

Mark McLean was actively involved in ensuring that the property was protected.

"This selfless choice," says McLean, "was typical of Ross and the Boothby family. They have owned this property for over a century and should be commended for their long stewardship and for making its permanent protection possible."

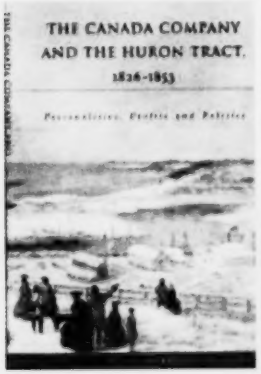
The agreement with the Boothby estate was for part purchase of the land and part donation. Six families on the lake donated the funds necessary to purchase the site. Their generosity was a critical part of the protection of the land.

Mr. Boothby's land is a valuable addition to the Foundation's portfolio of natural heritage properties. The site exhibits typical old growth forest characteristics with a mature (approximately 140-year-old) hemlock/cedar forest along the shoreline, and uplands of a mature beech and maple succession. With almost a mile of natural shoreline and its mature undisturbed mixed forest, the Boothby property is ecologically significant within the Muskoka region.

. . . the shelf

The Canada Company and the Huron Tract, 1826-1853

From Natural Heritage Books (www.naturalheritagebooks.com). The Canada Company – with its base in England – was responsible for settling over two million acres of land in Upper Canada. Author Robert C. Lee focuses on the Huron Tract and the dominant personalities, ranging from John Galt and Tiger Dunlop to the bishops Macdonell and Strachan, who impacted the company's operations. The founding of towns – Guelph, Goderich, Stratford, St. Marys and others in the area – is one of the legacies of the company. Lee's extensive research reveals a significant period in Ontario's history.



Toronto Sketches 8

From Dundurn Press (www.dundurn.com). ***Toronto Sun*** columnist Mike Filey returns with his latest in a series that captures the people, politics and architecture of Toronto's past with photographs and anecdotes that will change the way you see the city forever. *Toronto Sketches 8* brings us back to the time of Toronto's original horse-drawn streetcar, the construction of the Maple Leaf Gardens and

other spectacular memories of Toronto. Filey's column, *The Way We Were*, has a devoted readership and he has written more than a dozen books about Toronto.

. . . the silver screen

The Foundation's historic spaces bring yesteryear to life, making them ideal locations for film, television and commercial shoots. Foundation properties, through its Conference and Reception Centres, have been featured in hundreds of productions, including: *The Recruit*, *Agnes of God*, *Serendipity* and the Oscar-winning musical *Chicago*. Some of the celebrities who have appeared in movies filmed at our heritage locations include: John Cusack, Mira Sorvino, Samuel L. Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, Al Pacino, Colin Farrell and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Filmed on location at various spots in downtown Toronto during the summer of 2004 – including six weeks at the Ontario Heritage Centre, the Foundation's headquarters – Ron Howard's *Cinderella Man* tells the story of Depression-era fighter and folk hero Jim Braddock, who defeated heavyweight champ Max Baer in 1935. Starring Russell Crowe and Renée Zellweger, *Cinderella Man* is scheduled for release in June 2005.

For more information on the Foundation's Conference and Reception Centres, visit www.heritagefdn.on.ca.

. . . the web

The Archives of Ontario has been creating virtual exhibits since 1998. Over the last four years, the Archives' online exhibits program has introduced the public to their holdings in an interesting and interactive way. Viewed annually by tens of thousands of people from around the world, over 30 exhibits on the Archives' website cover aspects of Ontario's history from "Travels with Elizabeth Simcoe" and the "War of 1812" to "Stories from Ontario Movie Theatres" and "Black History in Ontario." Explore these exhibits – with more in development – at the Archives of Ontario's website at www.archives.gov.on.ca.

"Our Agricultural Past" will be launched this year by the Archives to celebrate Ontario's agricultural heritage.

THE SHARON TEMPLE

AND THE HERITAGE OF FAITH BY SEAN FRASER

While most of Canada celebrates Heritage Day on the third Monday in February, Ontario celebrates Heritage Week. The theme developed for Ontario Heritage Week 2005 is Ontario's Heritage: Our Shared Legacy. Heritage Day 2005 in Canada celebrates the Heritage of Faith: Spiritual and Sacred Places. Although the Ontario Heritage Foundation holds easements on many such places, as well as having plaques erected to over 60 churches and sacred spaces across the province, one site stands out for its unique architecture – an architecture that was largely determined by the congregation's faith.

Located in the quiet hamlet of Sharon in York Region, north of Toronto, is one of Canada's greatest heritage landmarks – the Sharon Temple.

This architectural gem is associated with the Children of Peace – a breakaway sect of the Society of Friends, or Quakers – founded in the early 19th century by radical thinker David Willson. In 1801, Willson and his wife emigrated from New York to join the Quaker community in Upper Canada. Increasingly frustrated with Quaker practices and beliefs, and an outspoken critic, Willson was dismissed from the Society of Friends by 1812. With several other former Quakers, he established a new religious sect incorporating some Quaker doctrines, elements of mysticism as well as Jewish ceremony, and an emphasis on music in worship.

Initially meeting at Willson's home, the growing sect eventually required larger accommodation. With the assistance of master builder Ebenezer Doan, Willson constructed the Temple of Peace between 1827-1832. While the sect flourished under Willson's guidance, and was active politically in Upper Canada and later Canada West, it went into a rapid decline in 1866 after his death. With the death of his son in 1887, the property fell into disrepair. In 1918, the York Pioneer and Historical Society purchased the property. After some repairs, the Temple was opened as a museum.

The Temple of Peace is a unique wood-framed building comprised of three tiers of diminishing size. Each tier has tall multi-paned windows on all four sides with a small pinnacle at each corner of the roof. Every element of the Temple was intended to symbolize some aspect of the sect's religious beliefs: the three tiers represent the Trinity; a door in each of the four sides allowed people to enter on an equal footing from all directions; equal numbers of windows on each side allowed the light of the gospel to shine on the assembly with equal strength; four pillars supporting the lantern were inscribed with the words denoting the cardinal virtues – faith, hope, love and charity; 12 pinnacle lanterns and 12 interior pillars represent the apostles. In the centre of the Temple is the tabernacle – like the Temple itself, an artifact of remarkable design, proportion and craftsmanship.

The Temple of Peace is a unique architectural accomplishment – structurally influenced by faith – and remains an important symbol of Ontario's heritage.

Heritage Day 2005 was celebrated by the Ontario Heritage Foundation at the Sharon Temple.

Sean Fraser is the Administrator for Easements at the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The Temple – a National Historic Site – is owned and operated by the Sharon Temple Museum Society. The Sharon Temple is also protected by an Ontario Heritage Foundation conservation easement. For more information on the Temple, visit www.sharontemple.ca.

The Council Gallery at the Ontario Heritage Centre, Toronto

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